ATTACHMENT A
Remarks

Claims 7-12 stand pending in the present application. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 7, 9, and 11. Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance based on the discussion which follows.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Logsdon et al U.S. Patent No. 4,876,402 (hereinafter "Logsdon"). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-6 were canceled in the Amendment filed July 14, 2004 thus rendering this rejection moot.

Claims 7, 8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP-06-228570 (hereinafter "JP '570") and claims 9, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '570 in view of EP 1192981 (hereinafter EP '981).

With regard to claims 7, 8 and 10, the Examiner alleges that JP '870 discloses a desulfurization process by contacting a raw hydrocarbon feed with a catalyst comprising Cu, Zn, and Ni oxide, in the present of hydrogen. With regard to claim 9, the Examiner has alleged that EP '981 teaches a desulfurization process is performed at a space velocity (GHSV) of 200 to 10,000 h^{-1}.

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 7 to now recite the desulfurization is performed at a space velocity (GHSV) of 200 to 10,000 h^{-1}, to further distinguish the claimed invention over the prior art which was previously recited in claim 9.

As an initial point, it should be noted that although the Examiner had alleged on page 6 of the Office Action that EP '981 discloses a hydrodesulfurization process at the

claimed space velocity range, EP '981 is not prior art of the present application. First, EP '981 is a national stage application derived from the same international patent application to which this present application is a 371 national stage application. Accordingly, the publication date of EP '981 is after the filing date of the international application. Further, the publication date of EP '981 of April 3, 2002 is after the September 27, 2001 filing date of the present application. Accordingly, EP '981 is not prior art against the present application.

With regard to JP '570, as the Examiner correctly noted in the February 25, 2005 Office Action on page 6, JP '570 does not disclose the desulfurization step is operated at a space velocity (GHSV) of 200 to 10,000 h^{-1}. Further, JP '570 does not use the desulfurization agent manufactured by the specific method as claimed. In addition, JP '570 does not realize the advantages of the present method, e.g., an effective suppression or reduction of heat generation which results from the present method.

JP '570 merely discloses a desulfurization agent comprising copper, nickel and zinc oxide. The agent disclosed in JP '570 is completely different from the agent of the present invention because the method for preparing the agent of JP '570 differs from that of the present invention. For example, in Example 1 of JP '570, the agent is produced from a mixed aqueous solution containing not only copper nitrate and zinc nitrate but also nickel nitrate. When the solution contains nickel, the desired agent and the excellent desulfurization property cannot be obtained. This fact is clear from the Comparative Example 5 in the present specification. According to Comparative Example 5, the CO concentration in the outlet gas was 1.5 vol% and a temperature rise caused by a methane forming reaction was observed. In view of JP '570, one of

ordinary skill in the art would not expect the presently claimed method would be advantageous as JP '570 merely discloses agents that cause a temperature rise due to a methane forming reaction. Therefore, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to modify the teachings of JP '570 to form the present method.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7-12 are not anticipated or obvious in view of JP '570. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Logsdon fails to make up the deficiencies of JP '570 with regard to the presently claimed method and therefore, claims 7-12 are not anticipated by or obvious from Logsdon individually or in combination with JP '570.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance.

END REMARKS